the ample resources, naval and military, at the disposal of the Federal general, the newly erected works could not be captured with their armament ami garrison. Nor was there In truth any sufficient reason for tolerating such a dangerous and. discreditable state of things. But McClellan resolutely refused to take any steps for the reduction of these batteries. He insisted that the object of any such movement would be gained, without loss of life and without any chance of failure, as the necessary result of the forward movement of the army which he had in contemplation. In this opinion lie was doubtless right; but was it wise to tolerate for a day the blockade of the Potomac ? What sound objection was there to making an effort to terminate such a mortifying, such an embarrassing, state of tilings? It would have been good, policy from any point of view to organize an expedition to capture the (Jonfederate works and garrison ; and the success of such an operation, in view of the abundant resources at McClellan's disposal, ought not to have been doubtful. The refusal of General McClellan to take any steps having this object in. view seemed to many cool and sensible men to indicate on his part an Inability to take a practical view of the

situation, and the hitherto almost universal belief in his capacity was, in consequence, seriously shaken. Any good general, It was urged, ought to recognize the beneficial effect on the *moral* of his troops and on the temper of the public of any successful military operation, and to welcome the opportunity of obtaining" any and every advantage over the enemy. The